



## SA In-Home Option

The 2006 North Carolina General Assembly affirmed its support of the State/County Special Assistance (SA) In-Home Option by increasing the statewide number of participants from 1,000 to 1,500, effective July 1, 2006. The SA In-Home Program for Adults (SA/IH) provides a cash supplement to help low-income individuals who are at risk of entering an Adult Care Home (ACH), and would like to remain at home. Thus, SA/IH provides an alternative to ACH placement for individuals who can live at home safely with additional supportive services and discretionary income.

The SA In-Home Program helps with living expenses such as food, shelter, clothing, and other daily necessities. The checks are sent monthly to eligible individuals living in a private living arrangement. The amount of the check is based on income and need and follows a comprehensive services assessment conducted by a case management of the county DSS.

The services assessment is needed to determine whether an applicant/recipient can remain safely at home, and what support services and additional income are needed to assure the applicant's needs are met. The case manager's role is essential in helping the clients remain at home. All SA/IH recipients receive ongoing case management. The case manager establishes the amount of the SA/In-Home payment, works with the client and client's family to determine how the payments are used, and monitors to assure that the payments are used as intended.

### **Urgency:** (High)

As of the beginning of August 2006, 72 counties are offering SA/IH. Each participating county has a limited number of slots. With the recent expansion of the available slots by 500, the Division of Aging and Adult Services has notified each county DSS that it can join the program or increase its number of slots.

**The county DSS must respond by September 1, 2006.**

### **Relevance:**

#### **For Consumers** (High)

- People who receive Special Assistance at home rate their quality of life significantly higher in terms of feelings/emotions, physical and social environment, and community access.
- They also believe they have more control over their lives.

*Mr. R, of Cleveland County, suffers from multiple health problems that are debilitating, including cancer. A friend assists with his care. Mr. R values being as independent as possible and wants to avoid out of home placement. He uses the SA In-Home funds for assistance with his care, and utility bills as well as special food for his recommended dietary needs. Without the SA In-Home assistance, Mr. R's needs could not be met and out of home placement would be necessary.*

#### For County Government (High)

- County government is responsible for half of the cost of Special Assistance, with the State responsible for the other half. The experience of the program since it started in 1999 has shown substantial cost savings. In June 2006, the average monthly SA/IH payment was \$340 while the average monthly SA/ACH payment was \$460.
- The total overall cost of serving SA/IH recipients during fiscal year 2004-05 was 29.6% less than the overall cost for SA/ACH recipients.
- One financial issue for some counties is that they have to provide a 36.37% match for the Medicaid case management service that is necessary for SA/IH.

#### For Local Service Providers (Moderate)

- The County Department of Social Services has responsibility for this program.
- The SA/IH program can serve as an option for CAP-DA clients whose condition improves—making them not eligible for this more extensive care.
- The SA/IH program can be an option for HCCBG clients whose condition worsens.
- Local home and community care providers are likely to get referrals as SA/IH clients can choose among services that will help them best.

#### **Questions for Local Planning Team:**

- Does your county offer this option? If not, why?
- If your county has this option, how well is it working? Consider the number of available slots filled? What has been the experience of those in the program? How aware are possible referral sources?

#### **Best Practices:**

- As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, Graham County has more clients using the SA In-Home Option (30) than it supports in adult care homes (14).
- Hertford County has kept its 15 slots filled for 6 consecutive months; Lee and Dare counties have had all of their 12 slots filled for 4 consecutive months.

#### **Contact and Resource Information:**

Local: Your County Department of Social Services Director or Adult Services Supervisor

State: Brenda Porter, at 919-733-3818; [Brenda.porter@ncmail.net](mailto:Brenda.porter@ncmail.net)

[http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/adultsvcs/afs\\_sa\\_inhome.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/adultsvcs/afs_sa_inhome.htm)

<http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/aging/adultsvcs/SAInHomeFinalReport2006.pdf>

| Status of SA/IH Expansion Requests as of August 25, 2006 |                         |  |  |              |                         |  |  |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|--------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| County   | Current Slot Allocation | Type of Request<br>(N = New county,<br>A = Additional Slots) | *Number of New or Additional Slots Requested | County       | Current Slot Allocation | Type of Request<br>(N = New county,<br>A = Additional Slots) | *Number of New or Additional Slots Requested |
| Alamance   | 6                       |  |  | Iredell      | 14                      |  |  |
| Alexander  |                         | N  | 10   | Johnston     | 21                      |  |  |
| Ashe   | 7                       |  |  | Lee          | 12                      | A  | 4  |
| Beaufort   | 5                       |  |  | Lenoir       | 15                      |  |  |
| Bertie   | 3                       |  |  | Lincoln      | 11                      |  |  |
| Bladen   | 6                       | A  | 6  | Martin       | 8                       |  |  |
| Buncombe   | 22                      |  |  | McDowell     | 3                       |  |  |
| Burke  | 5                       |  |  | Mecklenburg  | 24                      |  |  |
| Cabarrus   | 42                      |  |  | Moore        | 10                      | A  | 5  |
| Caldwell   | 11                      |  |  | Nash         | 9                       | A  | 11   |
| Carteret   |                         | N  | 40   | New Hanover  | 13                      |  |  |
| Caswell  | 4                       |  |  | Northampton  | 35                      |  |  |
| Catawba  | 10                      |  |  | Onslow       | 9                       | A  | 5  |
| Chatham  | 10                      |  |  | Orange       | 6                       |  |  |
| Cherokee   | 5                       |  |  | Pamlico      | 2                       |  |  |
| Clay   | 4                       |  |  | Pasquotank   | 22                      | A  | 8  |
| Cleveland  | 47                      |  |  | Pender       | 5                       |  |  |
| Columbus   | 8                       |  |  | Pitt         | 13                      | A  | 7  |
| Craven   | 8                       |  |  | Polk         |                         | N  | 5  |
| Cumberland   | 50                      |  |  | Randolph     | 14                      |  |  |
| Currituck  | 4                       |  |  | Robeson      | 31                      | A  | 15   |
| Dare   | 12                      |  |  | Rockingham   | 3                       |  |  |
| Davidson   | 9                       | A  | 5  | Rowan        | 15                      | A  | 15   |
| Davie  | 7                       |  |  | Rutherford   | 7                       | A  | 3  |
| Duplin   |                         | N  | 10   | Sampson      | 5                       |  |  |
| Durham   | 26                      | A  | 35   | Scotland     | 4                       |  |  |
| Edgecombe  | 8                       |  |  | Stanly       | 3                       |  |  |
| Forsyth  | 29                      |  |  | Stokes       | 10                      |  |  |
| Franklin   | 10                      | A  | 8  | Surry        | 7                       | A  | 3  |
| Gaston   | 24                      | A  | 6  | Swain        | 6                       |  |  |
| Graham   | 30                      | A  | 25   | Transylvania | 16                      |  |  |
| Guilford   | 50                      | A  | 15   | Union        | 8                       |  |  |
| Halifax  | 9                       | A  | 18   | Vance        | 7                       |  |  |
| Harnett  | 20                      |  |  | Wake         | 25                      |  |  |
| Haywood  | 18                      |  |  | Watauga      | 5                       |  |  |
| Henderson  | 29                      | A  | 6  | Wayne        | 20                      |  |  |
| Hertford   | 15                      |  |  | Wilson       | 19                      | A  | 5  |
| Hoke   | 5                       |  |  | Yadkin       | 5                       |  |  |
|  |                         |  |  | TOTALS:      | 1,000                   | 24   | 270  |

\* “Number of New or Additional Slots Requested” represent county requests as of August 25, 2006, however actual award decisions will be made after the September 1, 2006 deadline. Additional county requests are expected prior to that time. The 2006 General Assembly allowed the Division of Aging and Adult Services to allocate another 500 slots, for a statewide total of 1,500.